

Julimar State Forest: Fast Facts on its History

Although Julimar State Forest (State Forest No. 61) (JSF), in the Shire of Toodyay, is also known as the Julimar Conservation Park, it has not been formally declared a ‘conservation park’, as far as it can be determined. However, the Shire, in its 2017 Local Planning Strategy refers to this forest as the Julimar Conservation Park (JCP).

Location: Between Bindoon Dewars Pool Rd & Julimar Rd, more or less.

Size: 28,000 ha (16.5% of Shire).

Compiled by Beth Frayne, Toodyay Historical Society.

Wikipedia:	Definition: A state forest is a forest that is administered or protected by some agency of a sovereign or federated state, or territory. In Australia, it is forest that is protected by state laws, rather than by the Government of Australia.
State forest vs. Timber reserve	2020 State Forests and Timber Reserves. (Environmental Defender’s Office WA (Inc)) “What are “State forests” and “timber reserves”? The terms “State forest” and “timber reserve” refer to areas of Crown land set aside for uses including timber production, conservation and recreation. They include Crown land reserved as a State forest or timber reserve and used to grow non-native plantation species. State forests and timber reserves are managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (“DEC”), and are the only areas where timber harvesting can occur on DEC managed land. Timber reserves and State forests are managed identically.” (Fact Sheet 10)
Noongar land	Julimar State Forest is mostly in Yued country with the southern portion (Julimar Road) is Whadjuk country. Map in Reconciliation Framework (Reconciliation Action Plan), 2021-2023, by Shire of Toodyay and Kaartdijin Aboriginal Corporation (online). There is one Registered Heritage Site in the JSF.
1904 and 1905: Clarkson leases	The Clarksons held leases in the JSF, around Munyerring Spring (on block 7790) in the centre of the JSF and at Gakaling Spring (block 7789), to the south, close to Julimar Brook. Other land owners within JSF over time: O’Meagher, Ingham, Stokoe, Lewis, Kennedy.
1910: Bee keeping	By 1910, the Cook family was carting 40 hives into the forest, using a ‘horse-lorry’.
1922: Wandoo campaign	In 1922, Coondle bee keeper Samuel Cook (1881-1942) commenced writing letters to the Conservator of Forests about preserving the wandoo forest, as blocks in the forest had started to be cleared for farm blocks.

	By 1956, his campaign had the desired effect.
1920s: Tracks, fires and food	From Sam C. Cook's My life with bees (1989): "There were no tracks in the forest until father cleared for access to the bee sites." "Forest fires were a problem." "Hunting was a common pastime, both as sport, and for meat, ..."
1930s: Farming and the Great Depression	Landscape article on JCP (2006) (Julimar turning full circle (JTFC), by Brent Johnson, Alice Reaveley and Keith Morris.) "Nearly half of the area was taken up for farming under conditional purchase leases. Only half of these properties were cleared but, by the 1930s and the onset of the Great Depression, most farmers were forced to abandon the land. The leases reverted to Crown land and the area eventually became State forest in 1956."
1952: Royal Commission	Western Australia. Royal Commission on Forestry and Timber Matters in WA. P. [6]: "The Conservator of Forests has, for the protection of its marketable timber, also sought dedication of the following areas of the wandoo forest towards the northern end of the south-west region. These areas are:- Julimar Timber Reserve together with areas of other timber reserves and vacant Crown lands to the north and west, 137,000 [acres], 240,000 [timber volume]" And three other sites listed, elsewhere.
1956 June 20: State Forest	The Julimar State Forest (State Forest No. 61) was created. Hansard: The Crown lands described in the schedule hereto as State Forest No. 61 within the meaning and for the purposes of the said Act. [WA Forests Act, 1918]
1956: What happened next?	Landscape article on JCP (2006): "When the land was vested with the Forest Department in 1956, all timber harvesting and other activities in the area came under strict controls. Thereafter, several licensed contractors operated in the area, supplying jarrah and wandoo logs to sawmills at Bindoon, Bolgart, Northam and in the Swan Valley. Additional industries – ... charcoal manufacturing, at Wundowie, and tannin extraction, utilizing wandoo trees, based in Toodyay – thrived during the late 1950s and through much of the 1960s."
1960: Forestry settlement and a Lookout Tower	The Julimar Firetower is situated in the privately owned block 7790, off Munyerring Spring Road. In 1960, it marked the northern limit of fire detection in jarrah-dominated country.
1966: Land swap for the Army	Landscape article on JCP (2006): "In 1966, with the impending closure of the Avon Valley Army Training Area (now the Avon Valley National Park), the Dept. of Defence sought a land swap and the Commonwealth government

	assumed management of the northern third of Julimar State forest to establish a new defence training facility. “
1968: Dingoes lived in JSF	Trapper employed by the Dept. of Agriculture trapped about 40 dingoes and wild dogs in and around the JSF.
1973: Last chuditch sighting	Landscape article on JCP (2006): Last record of chuditch (western quoll) came from Julimar: a roadkill (as at 2006). The western quoll (<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>) is WA’s largest endemic mammalian carnivore. The species is currently classed as near-threatened. (Wikipedia)
1978 and 1980: Valued heritage	On 21 Nov. 1978, the Julimar State Forest (State Forest No 61) (27 708 ha, 14 km north-west of Toodyay) was proposed to be entered into the Register of the National Estate. It was formally entered on 27 Aug. 1980.
1980s: Clearing and predation loss	Landscape article on JCP (2006): “Early foresters and naturalists who worked at Julimar in the 1950s and 1960s noted the abundant wildlife, but a Biological survey by the Forests Department in the 1980s failed to find any medium-sized mammals.” Suggested causes: predation and competition from foxes; more surrounding land cleared for agriculture, feral cats.
1983: Landmark CALM System 6 study	In this report, the JSF is part of Julimar Management Priority Area (MPA 2.1). It was recommended that the general recommendations on planning and management of Regional Parks be applied to this area, not including [Bindoon Army Training Area].
1987: Chance of an upgrade	In 1987, three Regional Management Plans were published covering the south-west forests (CALM 1987a, b, c). Under these plans, the MPAs would become secure conservation reserves as national parks, conservation parks or nature reserves.
1992: Just a proposal	At the Toodyay Shire Council meeting, 23 April 1992, it was reported that the Julimar Conservation Park was proposed by CALM.
1992: Chuditch release	On 18 Sept, 1992, the first chuditch bred in captivity (22 carnivorous marsupials) were released in Julimar State Forest, near Toodyay. An endangered species bred by CALM and the Perth Zoo. Environment Minister Bob Pearce was present at the site.
2000: Another attempt to upgrade the status of JSF	On 17 Sept. 2000, both WA levels of government had agreed to amend the notified management plan purposes of the Julimar State Forest, deleting timber production on a sustained yield basis. “When mineral prospectivity issues have been resolved, the Julimar interim forest conservation area will become a conservation park.”
2006: Later land use	Landscape article on JCP (2006): Beekeepers were still active in the JCP. Commercial wildflowers picking, trail biking and off-road driving was not permitted. Horse-riding was discouraged.

2015: Julimar Bioblitz	On 12-13 Sept. 2015, the Wheatbelt NRM and the Toodyay Naturalists' Club conducted a 24-hour Bioblitz on land adjacent and in the Julimar State Forest.
2022: Future land use	The Julimar State Forest and its inhabitants, visitors and neighbours, will see significant changes to the land use and the landscape, with wide impacts. The Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance was formed on 5 March 2022 by a number of community groups with a common interest and appreciation of Julimar State Forest. The Mission of the Alliance is to improve the protection of the natural value and assets of the State Forest by seeking to have it reclassified as a National Park.